

In the claims:

Applicant hereby restates the claims of the present application as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A support system for at least one water drivable turbine that when in operation is immersed in a column of flowing water, comprising a deck for supporting said at least one water drivable turbine when immersed, the deck having an inherent buoyancy, the deck being attached via struts to anchor points located one adjacent opposite end regions of the deck in a river or sea bed, the deck being displaceable between a lowered position sufficient to immerse the at least one water drivable turbine and a raised position in which the whereby the deck is adapted for flotation when it is desired to raise the associated at least one water drivable turbine is above water level.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the deck has a rectangular cross section in a horizontal plane.
4. (Previously presented) A support system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the deck has a planar smooth surface of approximately rectangular form with rounded corners when viewed from directly above.
5. (Previously presented) A support system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the rectangular deck is of such construction as to be free from undesired flexural movements.
6. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein an upper surface of the deck exhibits an even and smooth surface immediately below the at least one turbine mounted thereupon, the arrangement being such that the presence of the deck upper surface serves to enhance the evenness of water flow over the surface thereof as compared with the flow over the generally rough and uneven surface of natural river or sea beds.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[8]], and further comprising location means provided at the underside of the deck for contacting the supports when the deck is in its ~~immersed~~ the lowered position.

10. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[7]], wherein the anchoring means for the struts comprise piles positionally set into the river or sea bed.

11. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[7]], and further comprising pivotal connections associated with the struts to facilitate articulation of the ~~associated~~ struts in such manner that the struts are rotatable through a vertically disposed arc relative to the river or sea bed.

12. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[7]], wherein the struts, when the deck is in its lowered position, are arranged to be horizontal in the direction of the water flows with respect to the at least one turbine when operating, the arrangement being such as to counteract thrust forces arising from said water flows

13. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[7]], wherein the deck is of streamlined cross-section and has a convex upper, the arrangement being such as to increase the mean water flow velocity through the turbine rotors, in such manner as to improve their power output.

14. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[7]], wherein the deck is profiled to reduce water flow velocity shear in such manner as to reduce turbulent flow through the turbine rotors, to enhance efficiency of turbine energy capture and to reduce fatigue loads on the turbine rotors.

15. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[8]], wherein the supports are arranged to be height-ways adjustable whereby the height of the immersed deck can be adjusted to accommodate sea bed conditions.

16. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[7]], ~~further comprising wherein when~~ two or more supports ~~and are provided~~, adjustment means for enabling adjustability of the support height to enable enabling leveling of the deck to accommodate unevenness in the sea bed level.

17. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 [[8]], wherein the support for the immersed deck extends across the full width of the deck, the arrangement being such that no significant passage is provided for water to pass beneath the deck whereby substantially all of the water flowing towards the deck is caused to travel over the deck thereby to enhance the mean velocity of the water passing through the at least one turbine .

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the deck is arranged to have neutral buoyancy, the arrangement being such as to facilitate the raising and lowering thereof relative to the sea bed.